

The paragraphs of the ~~BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS~~ as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1-10 are Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) images of four different vascular grafts made from four different species of polymer using the gel enhanced phase separation technique;

FIG. 11 is an optical photograph showing a pattern of tissue invasion into the porosity of the graft;

FIG 12 is a schematic illustration of the polymeric microscopic structure in the prior vascular grafts (right drawing) versus the polymeric microscopic structure in the vascular grafts of the present invention (left);

FIGS. 13a-13c show a possible embodiment of the present invention allowing for improved suturing; and

FIGS. 14a-14e show various embodiments of the present invention made possible by the gel enhanced phase separation technique.

The paragraphs at the bottom of page 11:

- 1) The manufacturer identified dimethyl acetimide, n-methyl pyrrolidinone, and tetrahydrofuran as solvents for the polymer.
- 2) A 0.25-gram sample of polymer was placed into the bottom of 20 small bottles. Five milliliters of 20 common laboratory solvents, including the three listed by the manufacturer, was added to the bottles. The bottles were left for 48 hours at room temperature after which they were used to identify those solvents that dissolved or resulted in swelling of the polymer. Twelve solvents were identified and are listed below along with freezing point ("F.P.", also known as melt point), boiling point ("B.P."), vapor pressure ("V.P."), and solvent group (S.G.). (Other properties that can aid in the selection of solvent and gelling solvent include, but are not limited to, density, molecular weight, refractive index, dielectric constant, polarity index, viscosity, surface tension, solubility in water, solubility in alcohol(s), residue, and purity.)

The paragraph at the top of page 13:

Sample B

Recognizing that dimethyl sulfoxide has a boiling point and vapor pressure unsuitable for freeze-drying, the Vial 13 gel is instead poured onto a Teflon tray, frozen at -15C and then submerged into a non-solvent (ethanol) at -10C for 12 hours to leach out the solvent and gelling solvent. (Had the gel been thick enough to form a stable gelatinous mass, freezing and the use of chilled alcohol would not be required.) The sheet was then removed from the alcohol and soaked in distilled water 12 hours, after which it is dried and placed into a desiccator. The sheet formed was relatively stiff and had a non-fibrous porosity of greater than 75%.